

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Page 1

Please replace the paragraph commencing at line 14 with the following amended paragraph:

Conventionally, a digital laboratory system has been known, wherein various types of image processing is carried out by an image processing section for image data obtained by reading an image recorded on a photographic film using a film scanner, or image data obtained by photographing a subject using a digital still camera, and based on the image data subjected to the image processing, image output processing such as recording of an image on a recording material, or writing thereof in an image recording medium such as CD-R is carried out. As compared with a conventional photographic processing system in which a film image is recorded on a photographic printing paper by analog exposure, the digital laboratory system as described above has the merit of being capable of freely controlling an image quality of a recorded image by various types of image processing carried out in the image processing section.

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Please replace the paragraph commencing at line 5 with the following amended paragraph:

The above-described image processing section of the digital laboratory system is provided with an image processing base plate on which various types of image processing is carried out for image data. The image processing section is structured so as to include

a computer in which an image processing program for carrying out calculation of processing conditions for image processing or image processing equivalent to that of the image processing base plate is installed, and also include a display on which an image is shown. The image processing for image data is carried out in such a manner as described below.

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Please replace the paragraph commencing at line 4 with the following amended paragraph:

A ~~six~~ sixth aspect of the present invention is an image processing according to the first aspect, further comprising an equipment related to the image processing, wherein the trial section allows transition of the equipment related to the image processing, to an initial state by giving, to the equipment related to the image processing, an instruction for transition to an initial state.

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Please replace the paragraph commencing at line 25 with the following amended paragraph:

The restart button according to the fourth aspect of the present invention is turned on by an operator who recognizes an abnormal state occurring in the image processing section, and based on the determination as to whether the restart button is turned on,

occurrence of a an abnormal state in the image processing section is detected. Accordingly, occurrence of the abnormal state in the image processing section can be detected by a simple structure, and occurrence of inconvenience in which a fixed load of the image processing apparatus increases due to continuous monitoring of the state of the image processing section, can also be prevented.

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Please replace the paragraph commencing at line 24 with the following amended paragraph:

The film scanner 12 is provided so as to read a film image (that is, a negative image or a positive image visualized by development processing after photographing a subject; "film image" corresponds to an original image of the present invention) recorded on a photographic light-sensitive material (hereinafter referred to simply as a photographic film) such as a photographic film 26 (for example, a negative film or a reversal film) and output image data obtained by the reading. Light emitted from a light source 20 and made into a state in which ununiformity in the amount of light is reduced by a light diffusion box 22, is applied to the photographic film 26 set in a film carrier 24, and the light transmitted through the photographic film 26 is made to form an image on a light receiving surface of a CCD sensor 30 (for example, a linear CCD sensor or an area CCD sensor) via a zoom lens 28.

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Please replace the paragraph commencing at line 4 with the following amended paragraph:

When image data subjected to image processing in the image processor 40 is used in recording an image on a photographic printing paper, the image data subjected to image processing in the image processor 40 is outputted, as recording image data, from the I/O controller 38 via the I/F circuit 54 to the printer 16. Further, when the image data subjected to image processing is outputted externally as an image file, the image data is outputted ~~form from~~ the I/O controller 38 to the personal computer 44. As a result, in the personal computer 44, the image data to be outputted externally, which has been inputted from the I/O controller 38, is outputted, as an image file, externally (to the above-described driver, communication control device, or the like) via an extension slot.

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Please replace the paragraph commencing at line 6 with the following amended paragraph:

The system initialization processing is ~~ready (preparation)~~processing that prepares for performing various types of processing (described later in detail) including image processing by the image processing system. For example, an operation of turning on a power source of various devices (for example, the film scanner 12 and the printer 16) connected to the image processing section 14, holding (setting) of a memory region used for image processing, initialization

including detection of origins of mechanical facilities of various devices (for example, the film carrier 24 of the film scanner 12, a zoom mechanism or AF mechanism of the zoom lens 28, the polygon mirror 64 of the printer 16, and the like) connected to the image processing section 14 or reset of a position detection value, and down loading of a program to the image processing base plate of the image processor 40 are performed. These types of processing corresponds to system initialization processing described in the second and third aspects of the present invention, and a relatively long time (many hours) is required until these such processing is completed.

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Please replace the paragraph commencing at line 17 with the following amended paragraph:

When the operator operates a mouse or the like to click the box represented as "OK" in the emergency stop confirmation screen, the emergency stop execution process detects that an instruction for execution of emergency stop (and reset or restart) of the image processing system (and the image processing-related equipment) is given, due to an abnormal state being caused in the image processing system, as shown as "system emergency stop instruction" in Fig. 2. In order to make trial of transition of the image processing system (and the image processing-related equipment) to an initial state, information which identifies the image processing system-main process is acquired from an operating system (OS), and based on the information acquired from the OS, an instruction for emergency stop and state transition (transition to an initial state, that is, a state at the time of starting) of the image processing system (and image processing-

related equipment) is given to the image processing system-main process (see "instruction for emergency stop/state transition instruction" in Fig. 2).

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Please replace the paragraph commencing at line 1 with the following amended paragraph:

As a result, in each subprocess of the image processing system, so long as there is any data (for example, image data) which is being processed, it is cancelled (~~destructed~~ discarded) and processing which is being executed is stopped, and processing for transition to the initial state is carried out. For example, among subprocesses of the image processing system, a subprocess for carrying out an operation of analyzing image data or image processing, requests the OS to hold a storage region for storing image data in a storage space of RAM 48, and stores image data in the storage region assigned by the OS to allow analysis or image processing of image data. In the subprocess for which the storage region of image data is assigned, after processing for requesting the OS to release the assigned storage region, the state of the subprocess is transited (changed) to the initial state thereof.

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Please replace the paragraph commencing at line 13 with the following amended paragraph:

When aan abnormal state of the image processing system results from, for example,

inconsistency of the state between processes of the image processing system or inconsistency of the state between the image processing system and the image processing-related equipment, transition to the initial state in each subprocess and each of image processing-related equipment can be normally performed. Therefore, the image processing system-main process receives, within a specified time, a normal response from all of subprocesses and image processing-related equipment which are managed thereby. As a result, the image processing system-main process makes a determination that emergency stop of the image processing system (and the image processing-related equipment) and transition to the initial state(reset), indicated by the emergency stop execution process, has been normally completed, that is, an abnormal state of the image processing system is settled and restored, and acquires, from the OS, information which identifies the emergency stop execution process.

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Please replace the paragraph commencing at line 6 with the following amended paragraph:

In the image processing system-main process, a timer is started after an instruction for "forced ending" is given to all of the image processing system-subprocesses and image processing-related equipment, which are managed thereby. When a specified time has elapsed, the image processing system-main process gives an instruction for stopping the process to all of subprocesses managed thereby irrespective of a determination as to whether a completion response has been received from all of subprocesses and image processing-related equipment

which are managed thereby (see "end-of-process process ends" in Fig. 3). As a result, all of subprocesses of the image processing system ends. The image processing system-main process requests the OS to shut down the personal computer 44 and restart the personal computer 44, and the image processing system-main process itself ends.

Please replace the paragraph commencing at line 21 with the following amended paragraph:

After the OS has performed preprocessing for shut-down and restart of the personal computer 44, the OS shuts down the personal computer 44 (the power source of the image processing section 14 operates with the power source of the personal computer 44, and accompanied with shut-down of the personal computer 44, the image processing section 14 is entirely shut down). Thereafter, when the OS is restarted and application programs including the image processing system are restarted, the entire image processing section 14 is restarted. Due to the entire image processing section 14 being shut down, thereafter restarted, and system initialization processing being performed (accompanied with the system initialization processing, the power source of the image processing-related equipment is turned on again and initialization of mechanical facilities mechanism, or the like is performed), aan abnormal state of the image processing system is settled and the image processing system is restored irrespective of causes of the abnormal state of the image processing system (even when the abnormal state results from abnormality of a communication system or the like).